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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Conversion of the S.S. BALTYK and BIALYSTOK 2. Warta Freight Insurance Firm 3. Construction of Ships and Ships' Engines	DATE DISTR.	8 February 1955
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1. The S.S. BALTYK and BIALYSTOK, in addition to conversion from coal to oil consumption, are also undergoing a four-year survey and refit. Both ships were built twelve years ago.
2. The trials of the BIALYSTOK were due to take place on or about 5 November 1954.
3. The changes will give the ships a cruising range of 15,000 miles, and thus their bunkering on the China route will now be a lesser problem.
4. The cargo space will be somewhat enlarged, but it will not constitute any appreciable quantity.
5.
6. A new type of marine engine is to be produced in Poland. It will be an improved copy of the Sulzer type, 600 mm., 4,500 hp. This is an extremely ambitious project for the Poles in view of their past and present difficulties in casting. The Poles hope to surmount this problem partially through the employment of electric-welding. However, pistons and piston rings will also continue to be a stumbling block.
7. Two representatives of the Warta (nationalized insurance) firm in Warsaw are at
 These men have stated that henceforth Warta will handle all insurance freight to Poland.

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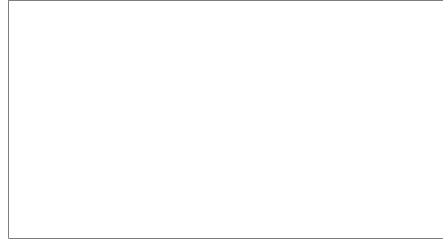
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8. With regard to the construction of 10,000-ton ships in Poland, it is believed that this is a model of a similar Soviet-type vessel. They will have Fiat engines of 9,000 hp. with an "in service" speed of 17 to 18 miles/hour. It is not expected that the first one will be completed before the end of 1955 or early 1956.



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